

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12, 14, 15, and 17-21 stand rejected, and claim 13 stands objected to.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §112

Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Examiner finds that the term "the template" lacks antecedent basis. Applicant has amended this term to read "a template" and thus submits that this rejection is now obviated.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1, 3, 7, 14-15, and 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,675,672 to Nakabayashi. In particular, the Examiner finds that, with regard to claim 1, Nakabayashi discloses all of the claimed limitations. Applicant has reviewed the reference with care, paying particular attention to the passages cited, and is compelled to respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of this reference. However, in the interest of passing this case to issue, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 5 (and intervening claim 4), which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 1 is now allowable.

Claims 3, 7, and 14-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and therefore are also allowable. Claims 17-21 have been cancelled.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §103

Claims 2 and 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakabayashi. Without addressing the Examiner's comments, Applicant notes that claim 4 has

been cancelled and its subject matter incorporated into claim 1, which is now believed to be allowable, and that claim 2 is dependent from claim 1. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 2 is also novel and patentable over Nakabayashi.

Applicant acknowledges with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to claims 5-6 and 13. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 5 and intervening claim 4 and submits that all pending claims are now allowable and thus respectfully urges the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

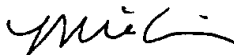
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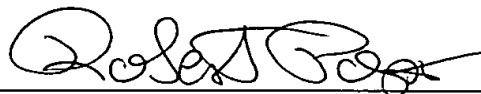


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Respectfully submitted,



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